

AIS Overview

We have a three phase strategy for preserving the Cisco Chain for future generations. The first strategic component is a comprehensive assessment of each lake in the chain. The assessment establishes benchmarks of water quality and aquatic plant diversity. That information is translated into a lake use plan. The second component is focused on educational outreach and prevention of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). The final component is AIS mitigation. That effort is directed toward addressing AIS that have made their way into the Cisco Chain. Currently three invaders have been discovered: Eurasian Water Milfoil, Curly Leaf Pondweed and Rusty Crayfish. Each invader has the potential to negatively impact recreational opportunities and the natural eco systems of our lakes.

The Cisco Chain is presented with challenges unique to boundary waters. Several jurisdictional agencies have interest in the chain. The Cisco Chain is collectively located in two townships, two counties, two states, and is subject to oversight by the Michigan and Wisconsin DNR along with federal agencies. That situation presents both challenge and opportunity. Partnerships in the fight against AIS have been forged to support ongoing efforts to assess, educate, prevent and mitigate. In addition to the Wisconsin DNR the other principal partner is the Invasive Species Control Coalition of Watersmeet (ISCCW). Initiatives have also been supported by grants from the Bond Falls Implementation Team (BFIT) and Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). Not to minimize the importance and input of other agencies and jurisdictions, these are the primary agencies providing financial support to augment the dues and donations provided by the CCROA membership.

Two key partnerships have been established to assist with the scientific and technical components of combating AIS. Northland College and Many Waters LLC have been invaluable by providing lake surveys, developing strategies, and interfacing with various regulators and treatment applicators, in addition to providing overall support and direction. They have collectively positioned CCROA for the best possible outcome in its ongoing effort to address the complex concerns related to aquatic invaders.